Introduction

The Irish News is a daily newspaper which has been published in Belfast since 1891. Its main circulation area is in Northern Ireland but it is also available in all parts of the Republic of Ireland. Its sister paper is FarmWeek, a weekly with a separate editorial structure aimed at the agricultural sector, which is produced in the same building and also circulates across Northern Ireland. As editor of The Irish News, I supervise all correspondence with IPSO.

Editorial standards.

We seek to maintain the highest possible editorial standards in all aspects of our coverage, and we believe that we have always demonstrated a strong track record in this regard. No complaint against The Irish News has ever been upheld by IPSO or indeed during the entire history of its predecessor, the Press Complaints Commission. All our staff journalists are qualified and experienced in their own particular fields. They are committed to verifying all stories to the highest possible professional standards. We would be ready to seek guidance from IPSO in connection with any sensitive or complex matter which we had not previously encountered, although this has not proved necessary since IPSO was established.

Our complaints-handling process.

If a complaint is made to The Irish News either in person or by telephone, it will normally be handled by our assistant editor, Fiona McGarry, working with with our newsdesk staff. If the complaint is straightforward, and can be resolved informally, we will be happy to regard the matter as closed. If a written complaint is made, we retain the correspondence. It is always our intention to resolve complaints as swiftly and amicably as possible. We carry the following message in a box on our op-ed page every day.

Complaints and Corrections

The Irish News is a member of the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) and is committed to upholding its Editors' Code of Practice.

If you have a complaint about editorial content or wish to draw an inaccuracy to our attention, you should contact complaints@irishnews.com with your name, address, daytime telephone number and details of your complaint.

You can also write to: The Editor, The Irish News, 113-117 Donegall Street, Belfast or telephone 028 9032 2226.

If you wish to make a complaint under the terms of the Editors' Code administered by IPSO, you can find full details at www.ipso.co.uk or you can email inquiries@ipso.uk or telephone 0300 123 2220. You can also write to: IPSO, c/o Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG

Our training process

The Editors' Code of Practice has been drawn to the attention of every member of our editorial staff. Due to the low number of complaints we have received, we have not so far felt it necessary to organise a specific training programme linked to the Code of Practice. However, we are very much open to suggestions from IPSO in this regard.

Our record on compliance

During the period from September 8 to December 31, 2014, we were not notified by IPSO about any complaints.

Appendix

All our journalists are familiar with the Editors' Code of Practice and we do not use any other internal manuals, codes or guidance.

Noel Doran,

Editor

The Irish News.